

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A preventive and/or therapeutic agent for vasculitis, said agent comprising an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist as an active ingredient.
2. (Original) A preventive and/or therapeutic agent, for vasculitis having resistance to steroids and/or immunosuppressants, said agent comprising an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist as an active ingredient.
3. (Currently Amended) The preventive and/or therapeutic agent according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein said vasculitis is polyarteritis nodosa.
4. (Currently Amended) The preventive and/or therapeutic agent according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein said vasculitis is the aortitis syndrome.
5. (Currently Amended) The preventive and/or therapeutic agent according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein said vasculitis is vasculitis associated with immunological abnormalities.
6. (Currently Amended) The preventive and/or therapeutic agent according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ wherein said IL-6 antagonist is an antibody against IL-6 receptor.
7. (Original) The preventive and/or therapeutic agent according to claim 6 wherein said antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against IL-6 receptor.
8. (Original) The preventive and/or therapeutic agent according to claim 6 wherein said antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against human IL-6 receptor.

9. (Original) The preventive and/or therapeutic agent according to claim 6 wherein said antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against mouse IL-6 receptor.

10. (Currently Amended) The preventive and/or therapeutic agent according to claim 6 ~~any one of claims 6 to 9~~ wherein said antibody against IL-6 receptor is a recombinant antibody.

11. (Original) The preventive and/or therapeutic agent according to claim 8 wherein said monoclonal antibody against human IL-6 receptor is PM-1 antibody.

12. (Original) The preventive and/or therapeutic agent according to claim 9 wherein said monoclonal antibody against mouse IL-6 receptor is MR16-1 antibody.

13. (Currently Amended) The preventive and/or therapeutic agent according to claim 6 ~~any one of claims 6 to 12~~ wherein said antibody against IL-6 receptor is a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody, or a human antibody against IL-6 receptor.

14. (Original) The preventive and/or therapeutic agent according to claim 13 wherein said humanized antibody against mouse IL-6 receptor is humanized PM-1 antibody.

15. (Original) The use of interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist for the manufacture of a preventive and/or therapeutic agent for vasculitis.

16. (Original) The use of interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist for the manufacture of a preventive and/or therapeutic agent for vasculitis having resistance to steroids and/or immunosuppressants.

17. (Currently Amended) The use according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~ wherein said vasculitis is polyarteritis nodosa.

18. (Currently Amended) The use according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~ wherein said vasculitis is the aortitis syndrome.

19. (Currently Amended) The use according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~ wherein said vasculitis is vasculitis associated with immunological abnormalities.

20. (Currently Amended) The use according to claim 15 ~~any of claims 15 to 19~~ wherein said IL-6 antagonist is an antibody against IL-6 receptor.

21. (Original) The use according to claim 20 wherein said antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against IL-6 receptor.

22. (Original) The use according to claim 20 wherein said antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against human IL-6 receptor.

23. (Original) The use according to claim 20 wherein said antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against mouse IL-6 receptor.

24. (Currently Amended) The use according to claim 20 ~~any of claims 20 to 23~~ wherein said antibody against IL-6 receptor is a recombinant antibody.

25. (Original) The use according to claim 22 wherein said monoclonal antibody against human IL-6 receptor is PM-1 antibody.

26. (Original) The use according to claim 23 wherein said monoclonal antibody against mouse IL-6 receptor is MR16-1 antibody.

27. (Currently Amended) The use according to claim 20 ~~any of claim 20 to 26~~ wherein said antibody against IL-6 receptor is a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody, or a human antibody.

28. (Original) The use according to claim 27 wherein said humanized antibody against IL-6 receptor is a humanized PM-1 antibody.

29. (Original) A method of preventing and/or treating vasculitis comprising administering an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist to a subject in need thereof.

30. (Original) A method of preventing and/or treating vasculitis having resistance to steroids and/or immunosuppressants, comprising administering an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist to a subject in need thereof.

31. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 29 ~~or 30~~ wherein said vasculitis is polyarteritis nodosa.

32. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 29 ~~or 30~~ wherein said vasculitis is the aortitis syndrome.

33. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 29 ~~or 30~~ wherein said vasculitis is vasculitis associated with immunological abnormalities.

34. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 29 ~~any of claims 29 to 33~~ wherein said IL-6 antagonist is an antibody against IL-6 receptor.

35. (Original) The method according to claim 34 wherein said antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against IL-6 receptor.

36. (Original) The method according to claim 34 wherein said antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against human IL-6 receptor.

37. (Original) The method according to claim 34 wherein said antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against mouse IL-6 receptor.

38. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 34 ~~any of claims 34 to 37~~ wherein said antibody against IL-6 receptor is a recombinant antibody.

39. (Original) The method according to claim 36 wherein said monoclonal antibody against human IL-6 receptor is PM-1 antibody.

40. (Original) The method according to claim 37 wherein said monoclonal antibody against mouse IL-6 receptor is MR1 antibody.

41. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 34 ~~any of claims 34 to 40~~ wherein said antibody against IL-6 receptor is a chimeric antibody, humanized antibody, or a human antibody against IL-6 receptor.

42. (Original) The method according to claim 41 wherein said humanized antibody against IL-6 receptor is a humanized PM-1 antibody.